

Customer No. 22,852
Application No. 09/708,490
Attorney Docket No. 3180.0269-00

REMARKS

Applicant's representatives appreciate the courtesies extended by the Examiner during the interview on October 10, 2003.

By the present Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 16, and 19 pursuant to the agreement reached with the Examiner during the interview. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Claims 1-19 remain pending.

In view of foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-19 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 1-19 in condition for allowance. Applicant submits that the proposed amendments of claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 16, and 19 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully points out that the final action by the Examiner presented some new arguments as to the application of the art against Applicant's invention. It is respectfully submitted that the entering of the Amendment would allow the Applicant to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED
EXAMINING GROUP 2863

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Finally, Applicant submits that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicant therefore requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
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Dated: November 10, 2003

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